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ADDITIONS TO THE MAMMALIAN FAUNA OF BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK, TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Species new to the mammalian fauna of Big Bend Ranch State Park are presented. New information for several species known from the Park that adds to the knowledge of distribution and presence within the Park also is presented.

Key words: bats, Big Bend Ranch State Park, carnivores, rodents

INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive work on the mammals of Big Bend Ranch State Park (BBRSP), Presidio County, Texas, was provided by Yancey (1997). He included distribution maps for each species occurring in the area.

The purpose of this report is to comment on some species new to the area, as well as to present information on species that seem more widespread in the area than was previously known.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The information presented herein was taken from our own records of mammals collected in BBRSP since the work by Yancey (1997). All specimens, some with frozen tissues, are deposited in the Natural Science Research Laboratory of the Museum of Texas Tech

University. The scientific names of mammals used herein are those taken from Baker et al. (2003) and Hooper et al. (2006). Common names are those taken from Manning et al. (2008). The order of presentation follows that of Schmidly (2004).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lasiurus borealis (eastern red bat).—Four specimens (TTU 82478-82480, TTU 108166) were obtained at Terneros Creek, BBRSP (Fig. 1). Along the creek

is an area of well-developed riparian vegetation. For an additional description of the habitat, see Brant et al. (2002). Other species of bats collected at this site

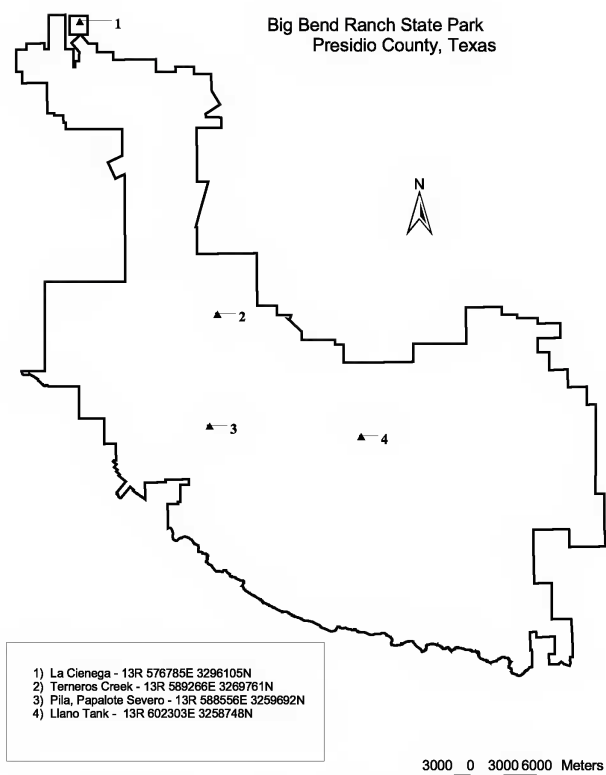


Figure 1. Outline map of Big Bend Ranch State Park with localities mentioned in the text.

included *Mormoops megalophyla* (ghost-faced bat), *Myotis californicus* (California myotis), *M. velifer* (cave myotis), *Lasiurus cinereus* (hoary bat), *Lasionycteris noctivagans* (silver-haired bat) (see the report by Brant et al. 2002), *Parastrellus hesperus* (American pipistrelle), *Eptesicus fuscus* (big brown bat), *Corynorhinus townsendii* (Townsend's big-eared bat), *Antrozous pallidus* (pallid bat), *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Brazilian free-tailed bat), and *Nyctinomops macrotis* (big free-tailed bat). This represents the first record of *L. borealis* from the Park. However, the Terneros Creek property was added to BBRSP after the survey by Yancey (1997).

Nyctinomops macrotis (big free-tailed bat).—Three specimens (TTU 82468, TTU 82470, TTU 82471) were collected at Llano Tank (Fig. 1), as well

as from Terneros Creek as noted previously. This expands the known presence of this species in BBRSP from that reported by Yancey (1997), who collected one specimen in the Park, and reported a specimen from Arroyo Segundo in the collection of mammals at Sul Ross State University. Other species of bats collected at Llano Tank include *Parastrellus hesperus* (American pipistrelle), *Eptesicus fuscus* (big brown bat), *Antrozous pallidus* (pallid bat), *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Brazilian free-tailed bat), and *Eumops perotis* (western mastiff bat).

Eumops perotis (western mastiff bat).—A specimen (TTU 82476) was obtained at Llano Tank (Fig. 1). Collected along with this specimen were *Parastrellus hesperus* (American pipistrelle), *Eptesicus fuscus* (big brown bat), *Antrozous pallidus* (pallid bat), *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Brazilian free-tailed bat), and *Nyctinomops macrotis* (big free-tailed bat). Yancey (1997) did not capture this species, but reported three specimens from Arroyo Segundo in the collection of mammals at Sul Ross State University.

Incidentally, a young animal of this species was obtained (TTU 108164) at nearby Fort Leaton (located four miles SE of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas). Apparently the bat entered a small room from which it could not extricate itself. The *E. perotis* was found on the upper part of a table leg in the center of the room.

Spilogale gracilis (western spotted skunk).—Remains of the western spotted skunk (TTU 108165) were retrieved from the pila at Papalote Severo (Fig. 1). Yancey (1997) reported *Mephitis mephitis* (striped skunk) and *Conepatus leuconotus* (hog-nosed skunk) from La Cienega camp (Fig. 1). Prior to this report, these were the only mephitids known from BBRSP.

Sigmodon hispidus (hispid cotton rat).—Specimens (TTU 108162, TTU 108163) were trapped at La Cienega camp (Fig. 1). The animals were found in tall weeds near an old barn and in adjacent corrals. Yancey (1997) obtained specimens at three localities in the central portion of BBRSP.

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